

Amendments in the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1. – 28. (Cancelled)

29. (New) A method for retrieving a vena cava filter from a blood vessel, comprising the steps of:

providing a vena cava filter retrieval device, the device including a tubular sheath, a shaft slidable within the sheath, and means for retrieving a filtering device attached to the shaft;

advancing the retrieval device through a blood vessel to a location adjacent a vena cava filter, the vena cava filter including a hub and a plurality of arms extending from the hub;

extending the shaft out from a distal end of the sheath so that the means for retrieving a filtering device engages the hub; and

retracting the filter into the sheath.

30. (New) The method of claim 29, wherein means for retrieving a filtering device includes a wire loop and wherein the step of extending the shaft out from a distal end of the sheath so that the means for retrieving a filtering device engages the hub includes engaging the wire loop with the hub.

31. (New) The method of claim 29, wherein means for retrieving a filtering device includes a wire loop and the hub includes a hook, and wherein the step of extending the shaft out from a distal end of the sheath so that the means for retrieving a filtering device engages the hub includes engaging the wire loop with the hook.

32. (New) The method of claim 29, wherein means for retrieving a filtering device includes a plurality of distal members and wherein the step of extending the shaft out from a distal end of the sheath so that the means for retrieving a filtering device engages the hub includes engaging the distal members with the hub.

33. (New) The method of claim 29, wherein the step of retracting the filter into the sheath includes retracting the arms of the filter into the sheath and then retracting the hub into the sheath.

34. (New) The method of claim 29, wherein the step of retracting the filter into the sheath includes retracting the hub into the sheath and then retracting the arms of the filter into the sheath.

35. (New) The method of claim 29, further comprising the step of engaging a stabilizing shaft with the filter.

36. (New) A method for retrieving a vena cava filter from a blood vessel, comprising the steps of:

- providing a vena cava filter retrieval device, the device including a tubular sheath, a shaft slidable within the sheath, and means for retrieving a filtering device attached to the shaft;

- advancing the retrieval device through a blood vessel to a location adjacent a vena cava filter, the vena cava filter including a hub and a plurality of arms extending from the hub, each arm including a barb at a proximal end thereof that is embedded within the blood vessel;

- extending the shaft out from a distal end of the sheath so that the means for retrieving a filtering device engages the hub;

- releasing the barbs from the blood vessel; and

- retrieving the filter into the sheath.

37. (New) The method of claim 36, wherein means for retrieving a filtering device includes a wire loop and wherein the step of extending the shaft out from a distal end of the sheath so that the means for retrieving a filtering device engages the hub includes engaging the wire loop with the hub.

38. (New) The method of claim 36, wherein means for retrieving a filtering device includes a wire loop and the hub includes a hook, and wherein the step of extending the shaft out from a distal end of the sheath so that the means for retrieving a filtering device engages the hub includes engaging the wire loop with the hook.

39. (New) The method of claim 36, wherein means for retrieving a filtering device includes a plurality of distal members and wherein the step of extending the shaft out from a distal end of the sheath so that the means for retrieving a filtering device engages the hub includes engaging the distal members with the hub.

40. (New) The method of claim 36, wherein the step of retrieving the filter into the sheath includes retracting the arms of the filter into the sheath and then retracting the hub into the sheath.

41. (New) The method of claim 36, wherein the step of retrieving the filter into the sheath includes retracting the hub into the sheath and then retracting the arms of the filter into the sheath.

42. (New) The method of claim 36, wherein the step of releasing the barbs from the blood vessel includes pulling on the filter with the means for retrieving a filtering device.

43. (New) The method of claim 36, further comprising the step of engaging a stabilizing shaft with the filter.

44. (New) A method for releasing a vena cava filter from a blood vessel, comprising the steps of:

providing a vena cava filter retrieval device, the device including a tubular sheath and a retrieval member slidably disposed within the sheath;

advancing the retrieval device through a blood vessel to a location adjacent a vena cava filter, the vena cava filter including a hub and a plurality of arms extending from the hub, each arm including a barb at a proximal end thereof that is embedded within the blood vessel; and

engaging the retrieval member with the hub so that the barbs release from the blood vessel.

45. (New) The method of claim 44, wherein the retrieval member includes a wire loop and wherein the step of engaging the retrieval member with the hub so that the barbs release from the blood vessel includes engaging the wire loop with the hub.

46. (New) The method of claim 44, wherein the retrieval member includes a wire loop and the hub includes a hook, and wherein the step of engaging the retrieval member with the hub so that the barbs release from the blood vessel includes engaging the wire loop with the hook.

47. (New) The method of claim 44, wherein the retrieval member includes a plurality of distal members and wherein the step of engaging the retrieval member with the hub so that the barbs release from the blood vessel includes engaging the distal members with the hub.

48. (New) The method of claim 44, further comprising the step of retrieving the filter into the sheath.

49. (New) The method of claim 48, wherein the step of retrieving the filter into the sheath includes retracting the arms of the filter into the sheath and then retracting the hub into the sheath.

50. (New) The method of claim 48, wherein the step of retrieving the filter into the sheath includes retracting the hub into the sheath and then retracting the arms of the filter into the sheath.

51. (New) The method of claim 44, wherein the step of engaging the retrieval member with the hub so that the barbs release from the blood vessel includes pulling on the filter with the retrieval member.

52. (New) The method of claim 44, further comprising the step of engaging a stabilizing shaft with the filter.